

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-92 (Cancelled)

93 (Currently amended). A monoclonal antibody ~~immobilized on a matrix or substrate which specifically recognizes~~ binds to IGIF or IL-18 consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr ~~to adsorb said IGIF or IL-18 and desorb it when the pH around the monoclonal antibody is changed, said IGIF or IL-18 mainly showing a single protein band with an activity of inducing interferon- $\gamma$  production at a position corresponding to 19,000  $\pm$  5,000 daltons when electrophoresed in a sodium dodecylsulfate (SDS) polyacrylamide gel free of reducing agent, and having the following physiochemical properties of (1) to (4):~~

~~(1) Molecular weight~~

~~—— 19,000 $\pm$ 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);~~

~~(2) Isoelectric point (pI)~~

~~—— 4.8 $\pm$ 1.0 on chromatofocusing;~~

~~(3) Biological activity~~

~~Inducing the interferon- $\gamma$  production by  
immunocompetent cells; and~~

~~(4) Amino acid sequence~~

~~Comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,  
wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.~~

Claims 94-98 (Cancelled).

99(Previously presented). The monoclonal antibody of claim 93, which is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

100(Previously presented). The monoclonal antibody of claim 93, which is capable of inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 101-103 (Cancelled).

104(Currently amended). A method for determining the presence of IGIF or IL-18 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample suspected to contain IGIF or IL-18 with ~~a~~ the monoclonal antibody ~~according to~~ of claim 93 under conditions suitable to promote the specific binding of the monoclonal antibody to said IGIF or said IL-18 to form an immune complex; and

detecting any such immune complex which is so formed.

Claim 105 (Cancelled).

106(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, wherein the monoclonal antibody is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

107(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, further comprising the step of quantifying the amount of IGIF or IL-18 present in the sample.

Claims 108-115 (Cancelled).

116(Currently amended). A method of inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18, comprising the step of contacting ~~a~~ the monoclonal antibody ~~according to~~ of claim ~~100~~ 93 with the IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 117-120 (Cancelled).

121(New). A kit for detecting IGIF or IL-18, comprising a matrix or substrate on which the monoclonal antibody of claim 93 is immobilized.

122 (New). The kit of claim 121, wherein said monoclonal antibody is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.